

a wrinkle in time tesseract

A Wrinkle in Time Tesseract: Exploring the Concept and Its Significance

a wrinkle in time tesseract is a fascinating concept that blends science, literature, and imagination into a single, compelling idea. Most famously featured in Madeleine L'Engle's beloved novel **A Wrinkle in Time**, the tesseract represents a higher-dimensional object that allows the characters to travel across vast stretches of time and space almost instantaneously. But what exactly is a tesseract, and why does it hold such a pivotal role in the story? Let's delve deeper into this intriguing concept, unpacking its scientific roots, literary symbolism, and cultural impact.

Understanding the Tesseract: From Mathematics to Fiction

At its core, a tesseract is a four-dimensional analog of a cube. In simpler terms, just as a cube is a three-dimensional extension of a square, a tesseract extends this concept into the fourth dimension. This idea might sound abstract or even whimsical, but it actually stems from mathematical geometry and theoretical physics.

The Geometry of the Tesseract

To put it visually:

- A point is 0-dimensional.
- A line is 1-dimensional, made by extending a point.
- A square is 2-dimensional, created by extending a line.
- A cube is 3-dimensional, formed by extending a square.
- A tesseract is 4-dimensional, formed by extending a cube.

While it's impossible for us to physically visualize the fourth spatial dimension due to our three-dimensional perception, mathematicians use projections and analogies to understand and represent tesseracts. The shadow or projection of a tesseract onto three-dimensional space can look like a cube within a cube, connected at the vertices.

Science Meets Fiction: The Tesseract in "A Wrinkle in Time"

In Madeleine L'Engle's **A Wrinkle in Time**, the tesseract is more than a

mathematical curiosity—it's a plot device that enables characters to "wrinkle" or fold space-time, thereby traveling vast distances instantly. This concept is akin to the idea of a wormhole in physics, where two points in space-time are connected via a shortcut.

By folding the universe, the characters leap across galaxies and dimensions, making the tesseract a symbol of transcending normal boundaries and exploring the unknown. This science-fiction portrayal sparked readers' imaginations and opened doors to discussions about the nature of the universe, time travel, and higher dimensions.

The Role of the Tesseract in the Narrative and Themes of A Wrinkle in Time

The tesseract is not just a scientific or speculative idea—it's deeply woven into the book's themes and character journeys.

Symbolism of the Tesseract

Beyond its function as a transportation method, the tesseract represents the infinite possibilities that lie beyond our everyday experience. It challenges the characters—and readers—to think beyond linear time and conventional space. In a way, it symbolizes hope, courage, and the power of love to overcome darkness and distance.

How the Tesseract Advances the Plot

The ability to "tesser" allows Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin to embark on their quest to rescue Meg's father from the evil IT. Without this ability to traverse space-time instantly, their journey would have been impossible within the constraints of the story's timeline. Thus, the tesseract is both a literal and metaphorical vehicle for adventure and growth.

Exploring the Scientific Foundations Behind the Wrinkle in Time Tesseract

While *A Wrinkle in Time* is a work of fiction, it draws inspiration from real scientific theories, which adds depth and credibility to its imaginative elements.

Dimensions Beyond Our Perception

The idea of a fourth spatial dimension has intrigued scientists and philosophers for centuries. In physics, some theories—such as string theory—propose the existence of multiple dimensions beyond the three we observe. The tesseract, in this context, is a helpful way to conceptualize these higher dimensions.

Wormholes and Space-Time Folding

The concept of "wrinkling" time aligns closely with the scientific hypothesis of wormholes—hypothetical tunnels through the fabric of space-time that could create shortcuts across the universe. Although wormholes remain theoretical, they provide a scientific backdrop for the tesseract's function in the novel.

Time Travel and Its Paradoxes

The tesseract enables a form of time travel or at least instantaneous travel across space and time. This brings up intriguing questions about causality, the nature of time, and the potential consequences of altering the timeline—topics that have been extensively explored in both science fiction and theoretical physics.

The Cultural Impact and Representation of the Tesseract

Since its introduction in **A Wrinkle in Time**, the tesseract has transcended the pages of the book, influencing popular culture, science communication, and even technology.

The Tesseract in Popular Media

The tesseract concept has appeared in various forms across books, movies, and TV shows. For example, Marvel's Cinematic Universe famously features the "Tesseract" as a powerful cosmic artifact, albeit with a different interpretation. This shows how the idea has permeated the collective imagination as a symbol of mystery and power.

Educational Value

Educators often use the concept of the tesseract to introduce students to higher-dimensional geometry and abstract thinking. By connecting mathematical ideas with storytelling, the notion of the tesseract becomes accessible and engaging, inspiring curiosity in STEM fields.

Technological Inspirations

While not directly related, the tesseract has inspired creative thinking in fields like computer science and virtual reality, where higher-dimensional data structures and visualization techniques are explored. Its metaphorical significance encourages thinking outside conventional dimensions—both literally and figuratively.

How to Visualize and Appreciate the Wrinkle in Time Tesseract

For many, the tesseract remains an elusive and abstract idea. However, there are ways to better grasp its nature and appreciate its role in **A Wrinkle in Time**.

Using Models and Projections

One of the most effective ways to understand a tesseract is through 3D printed models or computer graphics that project the four-dimensional shape into three dimensions. These models often show a cube within a cube, linked by edges, helping to visualize the complex structure.

Thought Experiments and Analogies

Another approach is to use analogies—such as imagining how a two-dimensional square would perceive a three-dimensional cube passing through its plane. Extending this analogy, we can consider how a three-dimensional being might perceive a four-dimensional tesseract.

Engaging with the Story

Reading **A Wrinkle in Time** itself is a powerful way to contextualize the tesseract. The emotional stakes, character development, and imaginative

scenarios breathe life into this abstract concept, making it relatable and meaningful beyond the realm of math or physics.

Final Thoughts on the Wrinkle in Time Tesseract

The tesseract in **A Wrinkle in Time** serves as a brilliant fusion of science, fantasy, and philosophy. It invites us to ponder the nature of reality, the limits of human perception, and the boundless potential of the universe. Whether you approach it from a scientific perspective or as a literary symbol, the tesseract remains a captivating idea that continues to inspire curiosity and wonder across generations.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a tesseract in 'A Wrinkle in Time'?

In 'A Wrinkle in Time,' a tesseract is a method of traveling through space and time by folding the fabric of the universe, allowing characters to move instantaneously from one location to another.

How does the tesseract work in 'A Wrinkle in Time'?

The tesseract works by folding space so that two distant points touch, enabling characters to 'wrinkle' time and travel vast distances instantly without physically moving through the space in between.

Who teaches Meg about the tesseract in 'A Wrinkle in Time'?

Mrs. Whatsit, one of the celestial beings, teaches Meg and her companions about the tesseract and how it enables travel across the universe.

Is the tesseract in 'A Wrinkle in Time' a scientific concept?

The tesseract in 'A Wrinkle in Time' is a fictional concept inspired by the idea of a four-dimensional cube in mathematics, used as a literary device to explain faster-than-light travel.

How does the tesseract help Meg in her journey?

The tesseract allows Meg and her friends to travel quickly through space, enabling them to reach distant planets and rescue her father from the dark forces.

What role does the tesseract play in the plot of 'A Wrinkle in Time'?

The tesseract is central to the plot, serving as the means by which the protagonists traverse the universe to confront evil and find Meg's missing father.

Can anyone use the tesseract in 'A Wrinkle in Time'?

No, the tesseract requires understanding and guidance from celestial beings like Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who, and Mrs. Which to use safely and effectively.

What is the significance of the tesseract's name?

The term 'tesseract' refers to a four-dimensional hypercube in mathematics, symbolizing the novel's theme of exploring dimensions beyond ordinary perception.

How does 'A Wrinkle in Time' depict the tesseract visually in adaptations?

In film and visual adaptations, the tesseract is often depicted as a shimmering or folding space effect, showing the characters moving through warped dimensions instantaneously.

Does the tesseract in 'A Wrinkle in Time' relate to real-world science?

While inspired by mathematical concepts, the tesseract in the novel is a fictional device and does not correspond to any proven scientific method of travel.

Additional Resources

****Exploring the Concept of the Tesseract in *A Wrinkle in Time*****

a wrinkle in time tesseract is a term that has intrigued readers and viewers alike, blending complex scientific theories with imaginative storytelling. Central to Madeleine L'Engle's novel **A Wrinkle in Time**, the tesseract serves as both a plot device and a conceptual metaphor, inviting audiences to consider dimensions beyond the familiar three of space and one of time. This article delves into the multifaceted significance of the tesseract within the narrative, its scientific underpinnings, and the broader cultural impact it has had since the book's publication.

The Tesseract: Fiction Meets Theoretical Physics

In *A Wrinkle in Time*, the tesseract is introduced as a means of “wrinkling” space and time, allowing characters to travel vast cosmic distances instantaneously. This concept resonates closely with the idea of a wormhole in physics—a shortcut through spacetime that theoretically enables faster-than-light travel. The novel’s use of the tesseract taps into higher-dimensional geometry, specifically the four-dimensional analog of a cube, which challenges our three-dimensional perception.

The original mathematical tesseract is a 4D hypercube, an object that cannot be fully visualized in our three-dimensional world but can be represented through projections or analogies. L’Engle cleverly uses this to symbolize the characters’ journey beyond conventional limits, both physically and metaphorically. This blending of advanced geometry with narrative fantasy marks *A Wrinkle in Time* as a pioneering work that introduces young readers to complex scientific ideas in an accessible way.

Tesseract as a Narrative Device in *A Wrinkle in Time*

The tesseract's role in the story is pivotal. It functions as a gateway that allows Meg Murry, her brother Charles Wallace, and their friend Calvin to traverse the universe in search of their missing father. This mode of travel, described as “tessering,” is more than a mere plot mechanism; it is a representation of overcoming boundaries and limitations.

By incorporating the tesseract, L’Engle emphasizes themes of courage, the unknown, and the interconnectedness of all things. The tesseract facilitates encounters with strange worlds and beings, underpinning the novel’s exploration of good versus evil and the power of love. Its conceptual depth elevates the story beyond a typical children’s adventure, encouraging readers to think critically about space, time, and human potential.

Scientific Context and Interpretations

Although *A Wrinkle in Time* is a work of fiction, its incorporation of scientific concepts like the tesseract has sparked interest in both literary and scientific communities. The tesseract, or 4D hypercube, is studied extensively in mathematics and theoretical physics. It is a construct within higher-dimensional spaces, which remain largely abstract and challenging to grasp.

Physicists often discuss extra dimensions when exploring string theory and

quantum gravity. While the tesseract itself is a geometric shape, the concept of folding or “wrinkling” spacetime aligns with the idea of wormholes, which remain hypothetical but are supported by Einstein’s theory of general relativity. These theoretical shortcuts through spacetime could allow for instantaneous travel, much like the tessering depicted in L’Engle’s story.

This intersection of science and fiction sparks curiosity about the real-world possibilities of such phenomena. While current technology and understanding limit practical applications, **A Wrinkle in Time** encourages a speculative mindset, blending imagination with scientific inquiry.

Visualizing the Tesseract and Its Challenges

One of the challenges in discussing the tesseract is its inherently abstract nature. Unlike a cube, which can be easily visualized, a tesseract exists in four spatial dimensions. To aid understanding, mathematicians use projections, animations, and analogies.

For instance, just as a 3D cube casts a 2D shadow, a tesseract can be represented as a 3D projection. These visual aids help illustrate how higher-dimensional objects might behave, albeit in a limited way. In adaptations of **A Wrinkle in Time**, such as the 2018 film, the tesseract is depicted through special effects intended to evoke the sensation of bending space.

Understanding the tesseract requires thinking beyond everyday experience, which makes it a powerful tool for challenging perceptions and expanding imaginative horizons.

Impact and Legacy of the Tesseract in Popular Culture

Since its introduction in **A Wrinkle in Time**, the tesseract has permeated various aspects of popular culture, often symbolizing advanced technology, multidimensional travel, or complex scientific principles. It has appeared in films, television, and literature, sometimes maintaining its original meaning and sometimes adapted for new contexts.

For example, the Marvel Cinematic Universe employs a “Tesseract” as a cosmic energy source and plot element, though this representation diverges from the geometric and scientific origins found in L’Engle’s work. Despite variations, the recurring use of the tesseract highlights its enduring appeal as a symbol of mystery and possibility.

The continued fascination with the tesseract underscores how **A Wrinkle in Time** successfully bridged science and storytelling, inspiring generations to explore concepts of space, time, and dimensions.

Educational Value and Influence

Educators and science communicators often reference **A Wrinkle in Time** and its tesseract to introduce students to complex ideas in physics and mathematics. By framing these concepts within an engaging narrative, the book makes abstract theories more approachable.

The tesseract encourages discussions about higher dimensions, the nature of the universe, and the limits of human understanding. This approach aligns with contemporary efforts to integrate STEM education with literature and the arts, fostering critical thinking and creativity.

Moreover, the novel's emphasis on love, family, and courage paired with scientific curiosity presents a holistic model for learning, blending emotional and intellectual growth.

Examining Pros and Cons of the Tesseract Concept in Storytelling

While the tesseract is a compelling element in **A Wrinkle in Time**, it also presents certain challenges from both a narrative and scientific perspective.

- **Pros:**

- Introduces complex scientific ideas in an accessible way.
- Provides a unique mechanism for interstellar travel, enhancing plot dynamism.
- Encourages readers to think about dimensions and the fabric of spacetime.
- Symbolizes broader themes such as overcoming limitations and exploring the unknown.

- **Cons:**

- The abstract nature of the tesseract can be difficult for some readers to grasp fully.
- Scientific explanations are simplified, which may lead to misconceptions.
- Its complex concept might overshadow character development for some

audiences.

Balancing scientific accuracy with narrative clarity remains a challenge when integrating concepts like the tesseract into fiction. Nevertheless, **A Wrinkle in Time** manages this balance effectively, making the idea both intriguing and meaningful.

The tesseract remains a testament to the power of speculative fiction to inspire wonder and inquiry, encouraging readers to ponder not only what lies beyond the stars but also the dimensions that shape our very existence.

[A Wrinkle In Time Tesseract](#)

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a wrinkle in time tesseract: [Extended Summary - A Wrinkle In Time - Based On The Book By Madeleine L'engle](#) Mentors Library, 2023-12-21 EXTENDED SUMMARY: A WRINKLE IN TIME - BASED ON THE BOOK BY MADELEINE L'ENGLE Are you ready to boost your knowledge about A WRINKLE IN TIME? Do you want to quickly and concisely learn the key lessons of this book? Are you ready to process the information of an entire book in just one reading of approximately 20 minutes? Would you like to have a deeper understanding of the techniques and exercises in the original book? Then this book is for you! BOOK CONTENT: The Mysterious Tesseract Meet the Murrys Mrs. Whatsit's Revelation Tesseract Travel Begins Camazotz: A Dark Planet The Power of Love and Light IT: The Malevolent Force Rescuing Mr. Murry Aunt Beast's Healing Touch The Battle of Good vs. Evil Charles Wallace's Sacrifice Meg's Inner Strength The Happy Medium's Wisdom The Return Home Lessons Learned through Wrinkles in Time

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a wrinkle in time tesseract: [A Wrinkle in Time](#) Madeleine L'Engle, 1962 Three extra-terrestrial beings take Meg and her friends to another world.

a wrinkle in time tesseract: A WRINKLE IN TIME NARAYAN CHANGDER, 2023-11-21 If you need a free PDF practice set of this book for your studies, feel free to reach out to me at cbsenet4u@gmail.com, and I'll send you a copy! THE A WRINKLE IN TIME MCQ (MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS) SERVES AS A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR INDIVIDUALS AIMING TO DEEPEN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF VARIOUS COMPETITIVE EXAMS, CLASS TESTS, QUIZ COMPETITIONS, AND SIMILAR ASSESSMENTS. WITH ITS EXTENSIVE COLLECTION OF MCQS, THIS BOOK EMPOWERS YOU TO ASSESS YOUR GRASP OF THE SUBJECT MATTER AND YOUR PROFICIENCY LEVEL. BY ENGAGING WITH THESE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS, YOU CAN IMPROVE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUBJECT, IDENTIFY AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT, AND LAY A SOLID FOUNDATION. DIVE INTO THE A WRINKLE IN TIME MCQ TO EXPAND YOUR A WRINKLE IN TIME KNOWLEDGE AND EXCEL IN QUIZ COMPETITIONS, ACADEMIC STUDIES, OR PROFESSIONAL ENDEAVORS. THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS ARE PROVIDED AT THE END OF EACH PAGE, MAKING IT EASY FOR PARTICIPANTS TO VERIFY THEIR ANSWERS AND PREPARE EFFECTIVELY.

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a wrinkle in time tesseract: A Wrinkle in Time Madeleine L'Engle, 2007-05 Madeleine L'Engle's ground-breaking science fiction and fantasy classic, soon to be a major motion picture. It was a dark and stormy night; Meg Murry, her small brother Charles Wallace, and her mother had come down to the kitchen for a midnight snack when they were upset by the arrival of a most disturbing stranger. Wild nights are my glory, the unearthly stranger told them. I just got caught in a downdraft and blown off course. Let me sit down for a moment, and then I'll be on my way. Speaking of ways, by the way, there is such a thing as a tesseract. A tesseract (in case the reader doesn't know) is a wrinkle in time. To tell more would rob the reader of the enjoyment of Miss L'Engle's unusual book. A Wrinkle in Time, winner of the Newbery Medal in 1963, is the story of the adventures in space and time of Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin O'Keefe (athlete, student, and one of the most popular boys in high school). They are in search of Meg's father, a scientist who

disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government on the tesseract problem. *A Wrinkle in Time* is the winner of the 1963 Newbery Medal. It is the first book in *The Time Quintet*, which consists of *A Wrinkle in Time*, *A Wind in the Door*, *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*, *Many Waters*, and *An Acceptable Time*. *A Wrinkle in Time* is soon to be a movie from Disney, directed by Ava DuVernay, starring Storm Reid, Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon and Mindy Kaling. This title has Common Core connections. Books by Madeleine L'Engle *A Wrinkle in Time Quintet* *A Wrinkle in Time* *A Wind in the Door* *A Swiftly Tilting Planet* *Many Waters* *An Acceptable Time* *A Wrinkle in Time: The Graphic Novel* by Madeleine L'Engle; adapted & illustrated by Hope Larson: A graphic novel adaptation of Madeleine L'Engle's ground-breaking science fiction and fantasy classic. *Intergalactic P.S. 3* by Madeleine L'Engle; illustrated by Hope Larson: A standalone story set in the world of *A Wrinkle in Time* *The Austin Family Chronicles Meet the Austins (Volume 1)* *The Moon by Night (Volume 2)* *The Young Unicorns (Volume 3)* *A Ring of Endless Light (Volume 4)* A Newbery Honor book *Troubling a Star (Volume 5)* The Polly O'Keefe books *The Arm of the Starfish* *Dragons in the Waters* *A House Like a Lotus* And Both Were Young Camilla The Joys of Love

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a wrinkle in time tesseract: The Viewpoints Book Anne Bogart, Tina Landau, 2004-08-01 *The Viewpoints* is a technique of improvisation that grew out of the postmodern dance world. It was first articulated by choreographer Mary Overlie, who broke down the two dominant issues performers deal with—space and time—into six categories. Since that time, directors Anne Bogart and Tina Landau have expanded her notions and adapted them for actors to function together spontaneously and intuitively and to generate bold, theatrical work. The Viewpoints are a set of names given to certain principles of movement through time and space—they constitute a language for talking about what happens on stage. Coupling this with Composition, which is the practice of selecting and arranging the separate components of theatrical language into a cohesive work of art, provides theatre artists with an important new tool for creating and understanding their art form.

Primarily intended for the many theatre artists who, in the last several years, have become intrigued with Viewpoints yet have had no single source to refer to in their investigations. It can also be used by anyone with a general interest in collaboration and the creative process, whether in art, business or daily life. Anne Bogart is Artistic Director of the SITI Company, which she founded with Japanese director Tadashi Suzuki in 1992. She is the recipient of two OBIE Awards and a Bessie Award, and is an associate professor at Columbia University. Her recent works include *Alice's Adventures*; *Bobrauschenbergamerica*; *Small Lives, Big Dreams*; *Marathon Dancing*; and *The Baltimore Waltz*. Tina Landau, noted director and playwright, whose original work includes *Space* (Time magazine 10 Best), *Dream True* (with composer Ricky Ian Gordon) and *Floyd Collins* (with composer Adam Guettel), which received the Lucille Lortel Award for Best Musical, an OBIE Award and seven Drama Desk nominations. She has been an ensemble member of the Steppenwolf Theatre Company since 1997.

a wrinkle in time tesseract: Hit List for Children 2 Beverley Becker, Susan Stan, American Library Association. Office for Intellectual Freedom, 2002-04-22 *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, *Blubber*, *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* - these are some of the most beloved, and most challenged, books, Leaving controversial titles such as these out of your collection or limiting their access is not the answer to challenges. The best-selling Hit List series gives you the information you need to defend challenged books with an informed response, all the while ensuring free access to young book lovers. Featuring 24 hot button books, Hit List for Children 2 presents a who's who of children's literature writers including Dahl, Allard, Blume, Rowling, Stine, L'Engle, Lowry, and Naylor. With a profile of each book that includes its plot, characters, published reviews, awards and prizes, and author resources, you will be prepared to answer even the toughest attacks. The most recent and compelling challenges are also discussed so that you will be prepared to address specific points. Eleven new books have been added to the second edition including *Mommy Laid an Egg*, the *Alice* series, *Witches*, and *Guess What?* For any librarian who feels alone on the front lines of the free access debate, the appendix reassuringly details wha

a wrinkle in time tesseract: **The Common Core in Action** Deborah J. Jesseman, 2015-06-19 This book addresses Common Core State Standard curriculum resources to assist the school librarian in collaborating with classroom teachers. Librarians are being asked to understand the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and their implications to programming and instruction, as well as to collection development planning. Using lesson plans originally published in *School Library Monthly*, this title builds upon them, adding many additional plans that address CCSS issues. The plans will help you implement the standards and can also be used as stepping stones to facilitate planning conversations and collaboration with teachers to co-teach lessons correlated with the standards. The book begins with an overview of the CCSS—what they are, how are they different from the content standards, and what the implications are for schools where the state has adopted them, including what the CCSS mean for collection development. It then goes on to explore the opportunities the CCSS present for the school librarian, looking at how you can become a leader in employing the process. The majority of the book is devoted to reproducible lesson plans, organized by curricular area or topic and grade level for ease of use.

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Elizabeth M. Dowling, W. George Scarlett, 2006 Focuses on the developmental process of religion and spirituality across the human life span. This encyclopedia joins a recent trend in research and scholarship aimed at better understanding the similarities and differences between world religions and spiritualities, between expressions of the divine and between experiences of the transcendent.

a wrinkle in time tesseract: The Complete Home Learning Sourcebook Rebecca Rupp, 1998

Lists all the resources needed to create a balanced curriculum for homeschooling--from preschool to high school level.

a wrinkle in time tesseract: *If the Shoe Fits* Dawn White, Short Description: *If The Shoe Fits* follows the intersecting lives of six women on one day as they discover something about love and loss, about themselves, about other women, and, yes, about shoes. In spite of age differences, there is one thing all women have in common—shoes mirror their state of mind. *If The Shoe Fits* mixes style and metaphor to create a poignant journey that transcends shoe preference. Long Description: *If the Shoe Fits* weaves together the stories of five women and a teenage girl, all in different stages of their lives, on one spring day in 2007. Each chapter is written from one of the six character's points of view and mentions a shoe choice. No matter whether a woman gains weight or what other changes take place in her life, shoes always fit. Yet *If the Shoe Fits* shows us that a woman's shoe choice mirrors her stage of life. And what once fit her well may no longer suit her, so she must shop for another pair. In the course of a single day, all six characters interact in some way—some dramatically, some only in passing. Yet each woman learns that she has to be comfortable in her own shoes before she can appreciate another woman's style. As the scene shifts from a Midwestern courthouse, to the mall, to a middle school and to a restaurant, each character discovers something about love and loss, about herself and other women. Sharon, a single mother pushing forty, hasn't yet recovered from her divorce, but now finds herself fighting for custody of her fourteen-year-old daughter, Tessa. Fiftyish college professor Carol, Tessa's stepmother, is determined to help her new husband Wes gain custody of Tessa, at almost any cost. Stephanie, twenty-nine, is Wes's capable single attorney who is trying to balance personal relationships with her fierce need for independence and material success. Madeline, a married mother of two and part-time college professor, is Sharon's thirty-something best friend. Loyal but overcommitted, she just might turn out to be Carol's worst nemesis. Adele, Carol's sixty-year-old therapist, must balance her clients' needs with the demands of her increasingly forgetful husband and aging mother. *If the Shoe Fits* is a book for women of all ages who want wit and style, but who also crave heart and soul.

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